addition to the 74 bulk drugs which are at present under price control under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995.

This Policy was submitted before the Cebinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11.1.2007. It was decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). GOM has since been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution. GOM has held three meetings so far on 10-4-2007, 12-9-2007 and 30-1-2008. GOM is yet to make its recommendations to the Cabinet.

The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 does not distinguish between life saving and other drugs. There are not specific norms or guidelines to determine as to which drug can be classified as life saving drugs. Every drug in general is considered useful in saving and prolonging of life.

Direct Fertilizer Subsidy to farmers

820. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering any proposal to provide direct fertilizer subsidy to farmers;

(b) if so, by when it will be implemented this in all over the country; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) A Group of Ministers (GOM) constituted to looked into sustainable use of fertilizers and pertinent subsidy and pricing issues has looked into various issues relating to fertilizer sector including the option of direct fertilizer subsidy to farmers. The same has not been recommended by the GOM in its final recommendations.

Production cost of fertilizers

†821. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production cost is different in different chemical fertilizers producing industrial units in the country;

(b) if so, what has been the highest and lowest production cost of each chemical fertilizer being produced in the country during the year 2007-08 (April to December);

(c) which industrial units have highest and lowest production cost; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.